(d) if so, what steps are being taken to provide sufficient groundnut seeds to farmers, as required by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per the report of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, due to non-receipt of normal rains in the State of Andhra Pradesh including Anantapur district, the farmers who have already procured the required quantity of groundnut seeds, could not take-up sowing.

In the beginning, the farmers have been supplied a maximum of 90 kg groundnut seed per farmer. Later on, it has been increased to 150 kg per farmer, on subsidy which is sufficient to cover one ha. area.

As per the requirement the State Government decided & arranged to supply 2,50,000 qtls. groundnut seed in Anantapur district. So far 1,84,509 qtls. of seed was distributed on subsidy @ Rs.400/- per qtls. through Andhra Pradesh State Seed Development Corporation Ltd. and Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Oilseeds Growers' Federation Ltd. under Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) during Kharif 2002.

Availability of corns

2512. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the livestock industry has turned down Government's offer to provide three lac tonnes of wheat to overcome the shortage of corn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to allow increased import of corns under tariff quota regime for the poultry feed sector;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures to be adopted for availability of more corns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Representatives of the Poultry Industry had expressed the view that the

prevailing Above Poverty Line prices of wheat *i.e.* Rs.610/- per quintal would not make it viable for them though these rates are substantially lower than the economic cost of wheat.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Tariff Rate Quota for maize has been increased and fixed to 4,50,000 tons during 2002- 2003.

(e) During 9th Plan, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Accelerated Maize Development Programme" under Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Pulses and Maize in 26 States. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided for adoption of latest technologies, training of farmers/officers and production of good quality seeds. During 10th Plan an integrated scheme on increasing production and productivity of maize is envisaged.

Rural Warehousing Scheme

†2513. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a Rural Warehousing Scheme, called Gramin Bhandaran Yojana;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision so far, in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outlines thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has formulated a new Central Sector Scheme for Construction/Renovation/Expansion of Rural Godowns (Grameen Bhandaran yojana) to provide to the farmers the facility of storage, pledge financing and other marketing services. The aim of the scheme is to enable small farmers to enhance their holding capacity in order to sell their produce at remunerative prices and to avoid distress sales by providing them with the facility of pledge loan at lower rate of interest. The scheme envisages grading and standardisation of agriculture produce at the time of storage so that the receipts issued by the godown keeper can be used as a negotiable instrument as and when legal status is accorded to such receipts. Under the scheme, subsidy of 25% on the capital cost of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.